

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 129305
ORIGIN HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 OES-07 AGRE-00 COME-00
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 /055 R

DRAFTED BY DHEW/FDA: PSHEELER:CM

APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:WJWALSH, III

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NEA/EGY:KHONAN(INFO)

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-----074959 220435Z /17

R 212255Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS STATE 129305

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, EG

SUBJECT: FISHMEAL WITH POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION WITH
POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCB'S)

1. SUBSEQUENT TO TRANSMISSION OF STATE 94722, FDA WAS
CONTACTED BY SHIPPER OF THE FISHMEAL WHO REPORTED THAT THE
PLANT RECORDS PRESENTLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THE CONTAMINATED
TUNA MEAL HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN SHIPPED ELSEWHERE AND NONE
HAD GONE INTO THE SHIPMENT TO EGYPT. REVIEW OF THE RECORDS
BY FDA INVESTIGATOR SHOWED AN APPARENT CONFLICT BETWEEN
MIXING RECORDS AND INVENTORY CONTROL RECORDS.

2. FDA HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO RESOLVE THE CONTRADICTORY
RECORDS, BUT THE FIRM'S INTERPRETATION OF THE RECORDS IS
THAT NONE OF THE CONTAMINATED FISH MEAL IS INCLUDED IN
THE SHIPMENT. FDA CANNOT DETERMINE IF THE CONTAMINATED
TUNA MEAL IS, IN FACT, INCLUDED IN THIS SHIPMENT.

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PAGE 02 STATE 129305

3. FDA SUGGESTS THAT THE MATTER CAN ONLY BE RESOLVED
THROUGH SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS OF THE FISHMEAL. FDA BELIEVES
EGYPT HAS THE CAPABILITY FOR THIS, BUT EMBASSY MAY WISH TO
CHECK THIS WITH DR. ELIAS ABOUD, DIRECTOR GENERAL, CENTRAL
MINISTRY OF HEALTH LABORATORIES, CAIRO.

4. FIRM OWNING FISHMEAL REPORTS THAT EGYPTIANS APPARENTLY HAVE VIEWED THE PRODUCT AS TOO HAZARDOUS TO HANDLE. THEY SHOULD BE ASSURED THAT CONTACT WITH THE PRODUCT AS NECESSARY FOR SAMPLING IS NOT HAZARDOUS.

5. ADDITIONALLY, SINCE THE MATERIAL IS IN BAGS, UNLOADING WOULD ALSO NOT PRESENT ANY HAZARD KNOWN TO US.

6. IF EGYPTIANS HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING METHODS, HAZARDS, OR POLICY, THEY SHOULD CONTACT THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS STAFF (HFC-40) FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, FOOD CONTAMINATION, TUNA
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 21 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780535/aaaabdue.tel
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Litigation Codes:
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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